

# Yavapai County Sheriff's Office



**Scott Mascher, Sheriff**

## Safety Information

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### **Scam Phone Calls Continue; IRS Identifies Five Easy Ways to Spot Suspicious Calls**

These callers may demand money or may say you have a refund due and try to trick you into sharing private information. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They may know a lot about you, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. If you don't answer, they often leave an "urgent" callback request.

"These telephone scams are being seen in every part of the country, and we urge people not to be deceived by these threatening phone calls, The IRS have formal processes in place for people with tax issues. The IRS respects taxpayer rights, and these angry, shake-down calls are not how we do business."

The IRS reminds people that they can know pretty easily when a supposed IRS caller is a fake. Here are five things the scammers often do but the IRS will not do. Any one of these five things is a tell-tale sign of a scam. The IRS will never:

- 1.Call to demand immediate payment, nor will we call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- 2.Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- 3.Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- 4.Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- 5.Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying. If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what you should do:
  - If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040. The IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.
  - If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1.800.366.4484 or at [www.tigta.gov](http://www.tigta.gov).

- You can file a complaint using the FTC Complaint Assistant; choose “Other” and then “Imposter Scams.” If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words “IRS Telephone Scam” in the notes.

Remember, too, the IRS does not use unsolicited email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue. For more information on reporting tax scams, go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and type “scam” in the search box.

### **JURY DUTY/WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST SCAM** **(Both very similar)**

You receive a phone call or e mail stating that you have missed Jury Duty or there is a problem with your Tax Return. The caller may identify himself as a member of your local Police Department or County Sheriff's Office stating **There is a warrant out for your arrest!**

**BUT**, we need to verify you are who you are. Just give us your Social Security number and date of birth to verify that you are the right person, **OR** send us a “money gram” (or other form of card payment) for \$350 and we can clear up this issue right away.

Both scams could also arrive by mail in the form of a “traffic ticket” with the fine amount printed.

In these scams, con artists take advantage of technology to change what displays on Caller ID, allowing them to pose as a local sheriff's office or other law enforcement agency. Scammers call claiming there is a warrant out for your arrest and ask for a fine in order to avoid criminal charges. Of course, these "officers" don't take credit cards, accepting only wire transfers or pre-paid debit cards as forms of payment. Sometimes the scammer may mention a loan or other financial matters to build credibility.

Tip: Avoid intimidation tactics even if personal information is referenced.

When in doubt, contact your local law enforcement office non-emergency number. Never reply to the solicitation. When in doubt call the public number of the agency they claim to represent, never call a number the scam artist gives you.

## Things you should know about a “Traffic Stop”.

If you are the subject of a traffic stop it is important that you follow these guidelines for the safety of yourself, your passengers, the police officer and other motorists on the roadway.

When you observe police lights and or sirens activated behind you, you should immediately yield to the right side of the roadway by activating your turn signals and safely yielding to the right shoulder or curb.

You should stop your vehicle in a safe location off the highway or off the shoulder portion of the road as soon as practical. Areas to pull over include the emergency shoulder or off-ramp of a highway, shoulder of a city street, in a business parking lot or as directed by the police officer. Avoid stopping on an overpass, bridge, curved roadway or any area with limited or no space available to the right of the vehicle. If the officer feels the area is unsafe, they may direct you to move your vehicle to a different location.

You are expected to comply with the officer's orders during a traffic stop. Drivers and passengers may be ordered to remain in the vehicle, exit the vehicle and may be ordered to move to a safer location.

### After the car is stopped the driver should:

- Put the car in park.
- Remain in the vehicle.
- Keep your seatbelt fastened. (Passengers too.)
- Keep your hands on the steering wheel in a visible location.
- **Wait for the police officer to approach your vehicle and make contact.**
- Lower your window.
- At night, turn on your overhead passenger compartment light.
- **Inform the officer of any weapons on your person or in the vehicle.**

### Drivers should NOT:

- **Reach around inside the vehicle**, if you need to reach for an item, ask the officer to indicate the item you need to locate and only do so after the officer has given their OK.
- **Do not get out of the vehicle unexpectedly or approach the officer.** If you need to exit your vehicle, ask the officer if you may exit the vehicle, and only exit after the officer has given their OK.

While every traffic stop varies based on the circumstances of the stop, drivers can generally expect the officer to:

- Greet the driver and Identify themselves as a police officer.
- Obtain the driver license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance.
- Inform the violator of the reason for the stop and explain the circumstances for the issuance of the citation or warning.
- Check both the validity and authenticity of the driver license.

The following forms of identification are acceptable in identifying the driver during a traffic stop.

- Arizona or out of state driver license.
- Temporary license or Learner permit
- Military ID or Consulate/International driver license.



## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Yavapai County Sheriff's Office now utilizes CodeRED® as its **E**mergency **N**otification **S**ystem. With this service, we can send messages to residents and businesses within minutes containing specific information when an emergency or time-sensitive issue arises.

Although ENS does contain published landline phone number information by default, the Sheriff's Office may only get landline phone data updates once a year. This is why it is vital that you register all your phone numbers directly to assure contact in an emergency.

By signing up, you also have the ability to enter alternate phone numbers and/or modes of contact. You may also specify your primary contact mode. The opt-in process will require that you have a valid email address.

A confirmation email and/or text message will be sent upon completion of registration. This message will be sent from **noreply@ycsoaz.gov** and may take up to 5 minutes. Once registered, you may opt-out at any time.

When delivery of the alert to your primary contact fails, the system will automatically fall back to other methods. If the system detects an answering machine, it will deliver the message to voicemail. If there is no answer, the system will redial the number at a later time or, if specified, fall back to another contact mode.

## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT IN AN EVACUATION?

Your first call may be

- Fire in your area.
- You have 4 hours for a possible evacuation.

Your second call may be-

- Evacuate Now!
- A knock on your door from a member of emergency services.
- Are you and your animals prepared?

### Family Emergency Supplies for 72 hours

First aid kit & personal medical needs  
Portable Radio with extra batteries  
Food & Water (1 gal. per person per day)  
Sanitation/Hygiene & toilet paper supplies  
Portable Potty or bucket  
Sealable plastic bags  
Blankets  
Sturdy shoes  
Prescription glasses  
Can Opener (Non electric)

Fire extinguisher  
Important Documents  
Provision for pets  
Gloves (safety & latex)  
Flashlight and extra batteries  
Candles & matches  
Tools & duct tape  
Cooking equipment  
Clothing  
Baby supplies

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Starting a Neighborhood Watch may seem like a huge task. First, determine if there is a need for and if there is an interest in a group in your area. Then talk with your neighbors and get at least 2 or 3 to help you put this program together. Follow these simple guidelines and you will be on your way. Remember: "We Look Out for Each Other" is the motto for Neighborhood Watch.

Start with an area that has a good view of each other's houses, and an area that is not too large to handle.

- Make a plan. Building a Neighborhood Watch takes planning.
  - Start with forming a planning committee.
  - Talk with your neighbors who are interested in creating a Watch in your area.
  - Walk the area with your group.
  - Make notes of any problems that might concern the group.
- 2 Contact your local law enforcement office and tell them about your plan.
- They will help you with sample materials, statistics and help guide you with your start up.
  - Schedule "what is suspicious" presentation for your first meeting.
- 3 Get the word out at about 4 weeks, set a date, time and place for your first meeting. Create flyers and posters, use social media and go door to door. Don't forget to invite your law enforcement representative to attend.
- 4 Map out the area.
- Decide on your boundaries of the Watch.
  - Note important locations like parks, bus stop, schools, etc.
- 5 Set your goals! Decide what is important to the group, but don't stray away from your prime goal of watching out for each other and the reduction of crime in the neighborhood.
- 6 Establish leadership. Remember one person cannot do it all! Key leadership positions to consider.
- A Watch Coordinator to help lead the group.
  - Block Captains to represent areas within the neighborhood.
  - A contact person to communicate with law enforcement.
- 7 Create a communication plan. Use a telephone tree list or email list.
- In an emergency the Group Coordinator will telephone the Block Captains, who in turn will contact their members.
  - For non-emergencies, the Group Coordinator will create an email list to forward emails to the group in total.
- 8 Teach Watch Members to be on the lookout and be the eyes and ears of the group. Use the "What is Suspicious" guide included.
- Keep a notebook.
  - take pictures.

- 9 Create reporting policies to help guide you. Observe and report, never take action. When in doubt, call 911. For information, follow up contact your law enforcement coordinator.
- 10 Keep everyone informed. Neighborhood Watch policies require a yearly meeting, a good watch meets frequently.

Your Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch coordinator is:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNS:** Two Neighborhood Watch road signs will be supplied to your group and installed by the County Road Department on County roads only. If your group is located on a privately owned road, the signs will be supplied for your installation.

YOUR LOCATION 1: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR LOCATION 2: \_\_\_\_\_

## **TIP OFFS TO RIP OFFS**

If you hear these or similar "lines" from a telephone sales person, just say "no thank you" and hang up the phone.

- "You've been specially selected to hear this offer."
- "You'll get a wonderful free bonus if you buy our product."
- "You've won one of five valuable prizes."
- "You've won big money in a foreign lottery."
- "You must send money right away."
- "This investment is low risk and provides a higher return than you can get anywhere else."
- "You have to make up your mind right away."
- "You don't need to check our company with anyone."
- "We'll just put the shipping and handling charges on your credit card."
- "You don't need any written information about our company or references."

**Go to: [ycsoaz.gov](http://ycsoaz.gov) and download "The Little Book of Scams"**

# AWAY FROM HOME CHECK-OFF LIST

Before you leave home, take the time to review the list and remember that your security check just takes 10 minutes.

- ☐ Lock all doors, including the garage door.
- ☐ Lock all windows, including basement and garage windows.
- ☐ Cancel all deliveries such as newspaper, food services, etc.
- ☐ Have mail and newspapers picked up by a neighbor if possible.
- ☐ Have someone pick up handbills and throw-a-ways.
- ☐ Never leave a note on the door that may indicate your absence.
- ☐ Arrange to have the lawn cut or the snow shoveled.
- ☐ Adjust blinds to make the house/apartment appear to be occupied.
- ☐ Place a light or two on automatic timers.
- ☐ Remove ladders from sight and secure them in locked places.
- ☐ Don't hide keys under doormats or flowerpots or in similar places.
- ☐ Secure items such as jewelry, furs, cameras, credit cards, and checkbooks.
- ☐ Arrange for a house-sitter, someone to live in your house while you are away, if possible.
- ☐ Arrange for a neighbor to keep an eye on your property and to report anything suspicious to police.
- ☐ Let a neighbor know where you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- ☐ Arrange with a neighbor to leave his or her car parked in your driveway or in front of your house.
- ☐ Join and be part of your Neighborhood Watch Group.
- ☐ Lower the tone on your telephone.
- ☐ Ask neighbors not to tell strangers such as salespersons and repair persons of your absence.
- ☐ Notify your local law-enforcement agency of your absence for a vacation check.
- ☐ Remember to register for Code Red our Emergency Notification System.